9-16-09

Job Training Center takes part in Youth Work Camp. »2

Both sides of Health Care Reform debated from opposing views. »4

Valley Bicycle Club Profiled for all those who may want to "go green." »5

Monarch's football falls to the Bakersfield Renegades 55-7. »6

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VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper



MONARCHS GAME ENDS IN TIE

Friday's draw against the San Diego City College Knights leaves Valley with a 1-3-1 record »6

lavalleystar.com | September 16, 2009 | Volume 71, Issue 2

RESTORATION CONTINUES



YOU SAID YOU LEFT IT WHERE?

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

JORGE MONICO
STAFF WRITER

Valley College continues its face lift into the fall semester, as blueprints become reality throughout the campus.

Construction of the Student Service Center is on schedule and the frame of the building is ready for heating and ventilation equipment to be installed, according to Valley Vice President of Administration, Tom Jacobsmeyer.

"The students will reap the benefits of the Student Services center which is getting in shape," he said.

The location of the old library is in the process of demolition; projects are to be fully complete by 2015, according to Jacobsmeyer.

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Technology Spot

Pocket projectors now available to help students on the go with presentations or aid with a school performance.
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ONLINE GALLERY



Sunset Music Festival

Ozzy, Korn perform along the famous strip

ONLINE VIDEO

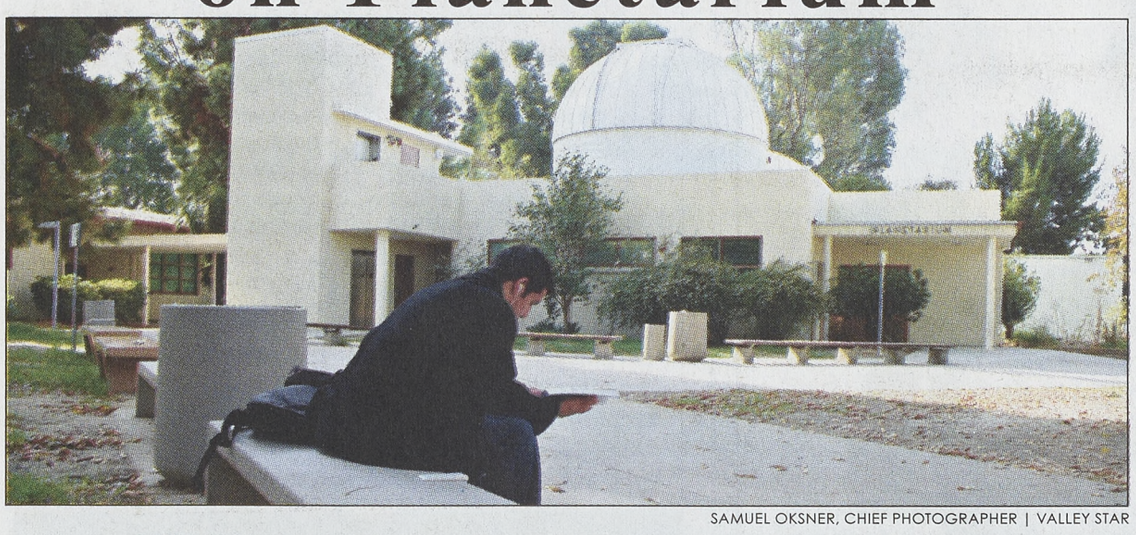


We ask students on campus about the ongoing construction and what they think of it.

These full stories and more can be read online @ www.lavalleystar.com

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE: FULL STORY ONLINE

Work Complete on Planetarium



SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

DOWN TIME - A STUDENT ENJOY THE MORNING BREEZE OUTSIDE THE NEWLY-RENOVATED PLANETARIUM.

JAMIE NORRIED
COPY EDITOR

The $1.5 million renovation of the Valley College planetarium is finally complete and features a brand new elevator, NanoSeam projection dome, 50 laptops, sound-absorbing walls, and a computer-driven telescope to enhance the students' learning expericence.

No Band-aid for Budget Cuts

JAMIE NORRIED
COPY EDITOR

As the Valley College budget dwindles, administrators search for ways to increase efficiency and worry about the ability to support the students. With a 2009-2010 final budget of $49,659,130 - over 3 million less than last year - the administration is having difficulty finding places to cut when the largest expenditure at 95 percent is salaries and benefits of the faculty and staff.

According to Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sandy Mayo, administration considered cutting tutoring programs, but to avoid affecting student support services they look to reduce supply costs by 25 percent, cut employee medical benefit costs, and hope to increase class sizes.

So far, Valley College administration has cut costs by switching the employee medical plan from Blue Shield and Kaiser to the state-sponsored provider, CalPERS. This is expected to save $400,000 in benefits costs this year.

"We continue to do more and more with less and less. Every time somebody says, 'Cut and you still need to do...' we cut, and we still need to do," said Mayo. According to Mayo, we are doing more with less by having a higher class average - now 38. In an effort to increase class sizes, fewer courses are being offered this fall and only 65 percent of winter classes will be offered as compared to last winter. No advanced courses will be offered in winter session in order to meet the broadest base of student need.

Academic Affairs is attempting to reduce costs in Reprographics by encouraging faculty to put syllabuses and handouts online, and to change their printing practices.

"We're really trying to save pennies now. If we get enough pennies together,

|See **BUDGET**, Page 2|

Flu Season Preparations Continue

RAY BLUMHORST
STAFF WRITER

The vulnerability of college age people to the H1N1 virus came closer to Valley College students' awareness this week, when approximately 2000 students at Washington State University came down with swine flu-like symptoms.

Valley Physician Assistant, Sonia Nodal is concerned that Valley students will not get the flu shots needed to protect them from the coming flu viruses most health authorities are predicting.

"They already know everything about covering their coughs and washing their hands," said Nodal. "But how are we going to educate them (on) the significance of vaccination? We will most likely be tabling on club day. We will definitely have material available and I will be there. "

Some flu season strategies at Valley are still in developmental

|See **FLU**, Page 2|

'Flu'

continued from page 1

stages.

"Sonia Nodal and I are planning a number of preventative activities for students as well as the possibility of free flu vaccines for any student who would like one," said Valley Vice President of Student Services, Yasmin Delahoussaye.

Valley Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sandy Mayo addressed classroom issues that Valley students and teachers may be facing this flu season.

"We'll get subs for faculty out more than one class meeting," said Mayo. "Once we know we have an outbreak, I'll ask faculty to work with students and each other to ensure access and success for students and faculty."

Valley Vice President of Administrative Services, Tom Jacobsmeyer is in daily contact with local health departments, regarding occurrence of flu in our area, and he has seen to it that signs have been posted in restrooms to encourage hand washing.

"Valley has no plans to close during the flu season, nor does it plan to close if cases of H1N1 are discovered among the Valley population," said Jacobsmeyer.

In a conference call on Thursday, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan emphasized that sick students should stay away from others and not walk around to get meals or pick up class notes.

"They can get a friend or roommate to help," said Duncan.

Valley student's Christina Youman and Marine Djougarian each said that mom would be the flu buddy they'd want if a flu virus strikes. Djougarian said her sister could also be her flu buddy.

'Budget'

continued from page 1

we've got a nickel or a dime. It could be hundreds of dollars when you're talking about the kinds of duplicating that we're doing," said Mayo.

Faculty members are encouraged to turn in work orders to Reprographics, which is one-fifth the cost of self-serve copying on the smaller machines.

"You can't teach chemistry without having chemicals to mix," said Mayo, "but folks have to have hands-on activities." In order to reduce the supply budget by 25 percent, administration is asking faculty and staff to reduce wherever possible. That means no more company-paid tissues, and no more Band-aids for paper cuts.

Youth Take Part in Manufacturing Camp

LUPE GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Valley hosted a manufacturing camp for foster youth and other students, giving them an introduction and hands-on experience in the world of manufacturing. The participants met for one week through August 17- 21 for a total of 20 hours and were exposed to CNC programming, MasterCAM, blueprint reading, careers and jobs, and visited local aerospace and manufacturing companies.

"We found it's a real good opportuniy for training," said Roberto Gutierrez from the Job Training Center. "The industry is very much interested with working with young people, the new talent, machinists, problem solvers of tomorrow."

The camp was put together by collaborative efforts by Valley's Job Training Center and Youth Empowering Strategies for Success (YESS), a program funded by the Foundation for California Community Colleges which is geared toward foster youth getting closer to or have been emancipated.

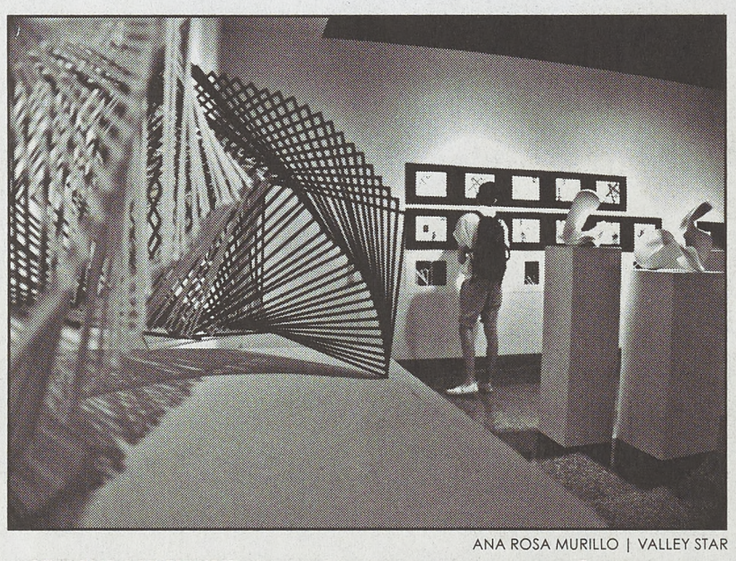
"It worked out great. We were a little too successful," joked Syed Hussain, director of YESS and Title V. The program anticipated 20 youth, but accepted 30 students, half of them foster youth. At the end of the camp, 24 graduated the course and 18 of the graduates earned one college unit. "We got blown away by our success," Hussain added.

The camp participants came from throughout the greater Los Angeles area, from Wilmington to Palmdale. Ricardo Ruiz, a senior at Van Nuys High School and concurrent student at Valley College, participated in the camp after hearing about it from his high school metal shop teacher. "We learned a lot," he says. "It really showed me what I want to be...I want to be a designer."

But as great as it may sound, there is always room for improvements. Gutierrez would have liked a longer program with more kids, but- stressing safety- no more than 15 per class. Similarly, Hussein wished for more funding so that more than one trainer can help keep the class sizes small, and so that the participants may have more exposure to other trades, such as welding. Both organizers hope that the success of this camp sets the tone for future programs.

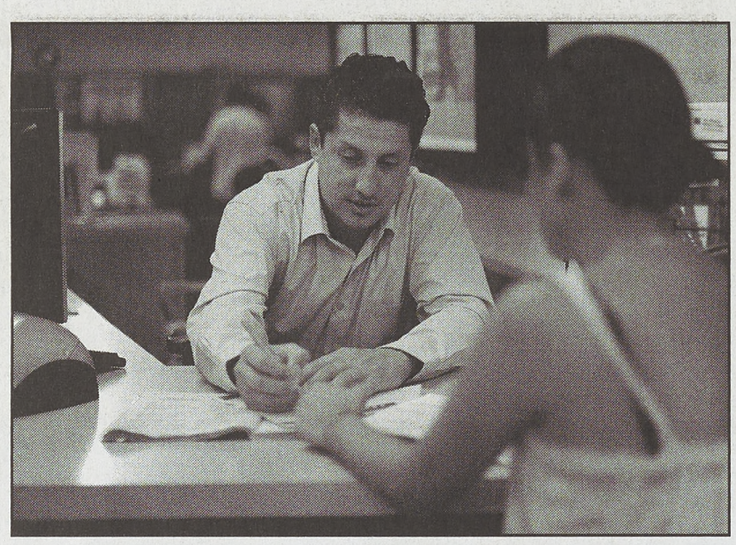
This manufacturing camp was funded by a $4,000 grant awarded by the Nuts, Bolts, and Thingamajigs, a foundation that hopes to inspire "the next generation of tinkerers and the innovators of tomorrow's workforce." Valley was one of four California community colleges, and the only college in southern California, who was awarded the grant.

Valley In Photos



ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR

STUDENT ART EXHIBIT - MARIO MEDINA TAKES A MOMENT ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON TO VIEW STUDENT ART PIECES FROM PREVIOUS SEMESTERS.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

LAST WEEK - A STUDENT ASKS FOR ADVICE ON CLASSES, DURING THE FINAL WEEK OF ADDS AND DROPPING WITHOUT INCURRING FEES.



ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR

BACK IN TIME - MUSEUM CURATOR, BILL CARPENTER WELCOMES STUDENTS TO THE LAVC'S HISTORICAL MUSEUM LOCATED IN BUNGALOW 15 AND GIVES STUDENTS APPEALING HISTORY OF SAN FERNANDO VALLEY'S PHOTOS AND ANTIQUES.

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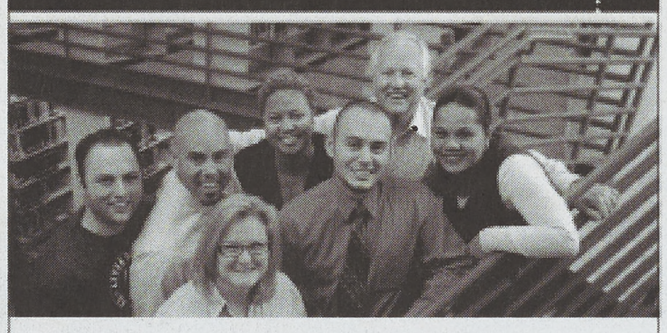
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AMERICANS DESERVE THE OPTION FOR BETTER CARE

Current bill in Congress will deliver necessary care to Americans and help streamline current health services.

JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

Students at Valley College are privileged to have a Student Health Center that provides physicals and various screenings, lab testing, immunization shots, and referral services. More importantly it comes at little or no cost. It would be great for all Americans to have nationalized health care interested in helping people instead of the broken down, misanthropic, juggernaut that we have at present.

The United States National Health Care Act, or H.R. 676, is a bill introduced to the House of Representatives on Aug. 24 and is expected to create a heated debate when the House reconvenes later this month. This bill is the best shot to deliver single payer health care to our country.

This bill would essentially make the current MediCare health program available to all citizens of the U.S. including primary care, necessary prescription drugs, emergency room services, mental health, dental and vision care with a renewed dedication to preventative health care.

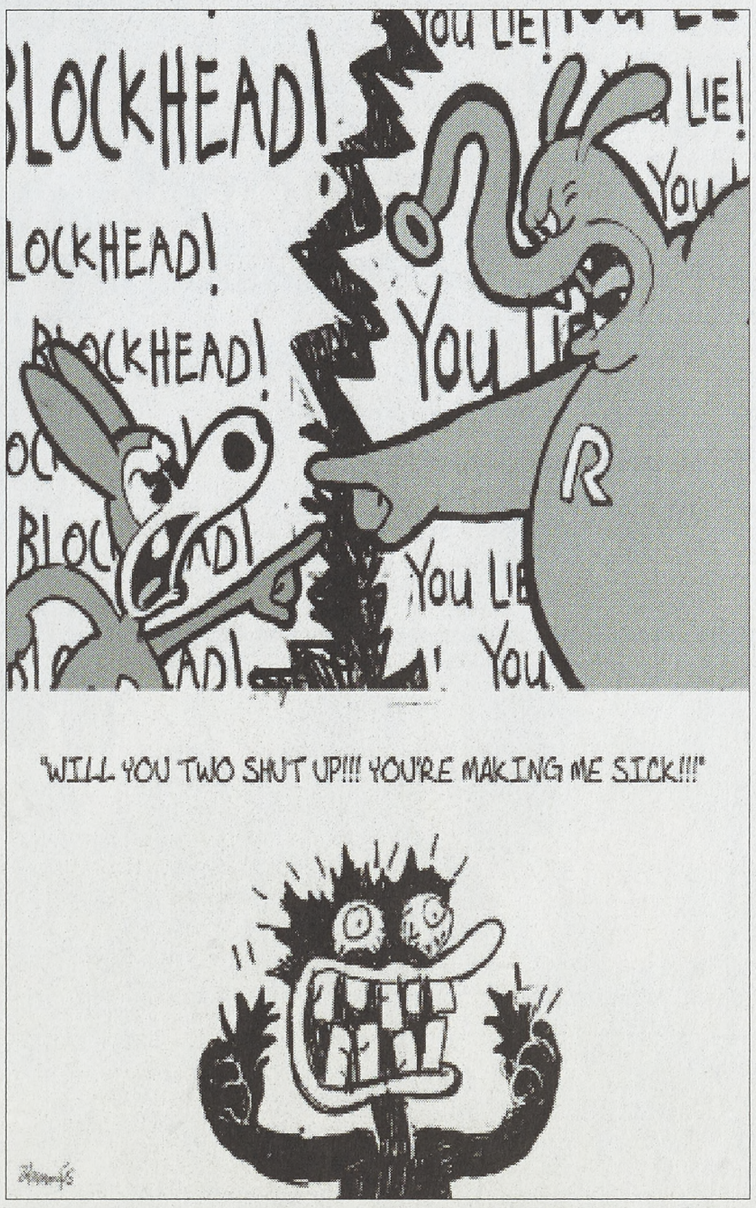
While things that are too good to be true usually are, H.R. 676 is no fantasy. The idea is that costs would be offset by the tax revenues generated by U.S. citizens. First, this is something that every tax-paying citizen already does with MediCare taxes. Second, with everyone paying into the system, citizens would be allowed to get more services at a lower cost.

With many republicans crying foul that this idea is communism and that this is an expansion of government, they have forgotten a few things in their well-rehearsed rant. They should consider the fact that they've already been paying into MediCare, making them communists already.

This is also not an expansion of government. H.R. 676 would actually streamline existing agencies into a more efficient system that would combine the Indian Health Services and Veteran Affairs programs, eliminating extra bureaucracy, extra paperwork, and insuring VA hospitals like Walter Reed are on par with everyone else.

Additionally, the biggest innovation this bill would introduce is the creation of electronic medical records for everyone. USA Today has reported that as recent as 2003, $1.7 trillion was spent on paperwork alone, which will be eliminated.

Twenty five words into the U.S. Constitution, it says, "Promote the General Welfare." Not the general rich, not the general richer, or the general richest one percent. If the government can do this and provide us the general welfare we need, citizens will have an easier time securing the "blessings to ourselves and our posterity" instead of worrying about choosing between rent and medication. Give the republicans the Second Amendment, the rest of us want single payer.



LEONARDO ALLANIS | VALLEY STAR

HEALTHCARE REFORM JUST TOO EXPENSIVE RIGHT NOW

The United States just can't afford to foot the bill for universal healthcare during depths of economic turmoil.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Valley College has a brand new and rather nice Allied Health and Science building that may soon have tumbleweeds rolling though it as the drive to succeed in medicine may dwindle.

Healthcare reform, a hot button issue as of late is making me sick. Of all the things America has on its agenda, this is yet another which will be undoubtedly expensive, imperfect and come back to bite us on our ever-widening butts.

Within a few years, the medical field itself will be less in demand due to standardized payouts for doctors and nurses. Establishing a universal healthcare system will reduce the quality and drive, as well as the flexibility of our healthcare due to lack of competition.

"What's the point of working 12-hour days, taking as many clients as you can, trying to make every mom happy, every sick child smile, if the doctor who is working next to you works 12-hour days, sees only five clients and gets paid the same?" said plastic surgeon Chris Elliot. "C'mon, you're bound to lose it, why work hard? At first you might, but then, it's just fruitless."

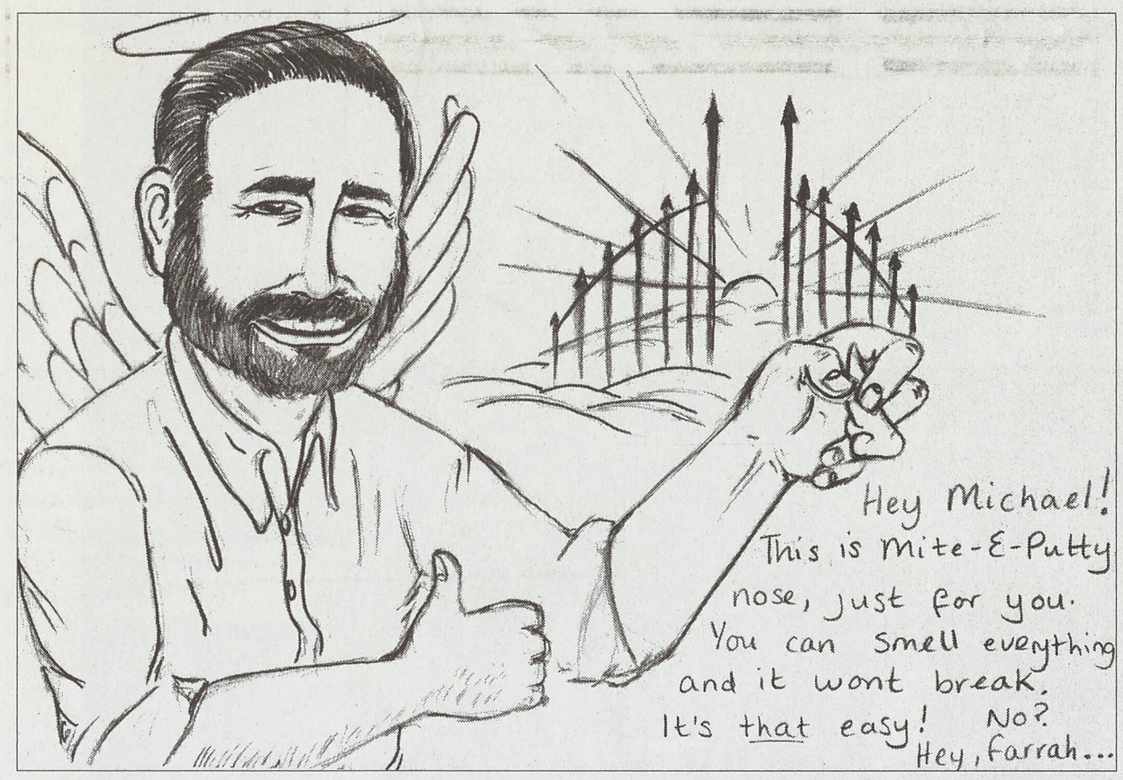
According to a recent article by The New York Times, the cost of healthcare reform will be an astounding $100 billion a year for the first 10 years, which is the same average yearly cost of the Iraq war. The overall cost of health insurance will be raised, especially taxes. A two percent tax increase for those who don't have insurance and another percent tax increase are proposed, among other proposals for those lucky individuals who fall into the "high income bracket," as stated in President Obama's Fiscal 2010 budget. Although the specified amount one would have to make in order to be in this bracket remains unspecified, President Obama did enlighten us and clarify for the masses, during a July taping of NBC's "Today" program.

"What I've said is, 'I don't want to see additional tax burdens put on people who are making $250,000 a year or less,'" said President Obama. "That is one option among many, but what levels that's going to be at, where it's pegged at, all those details are still being worked out."

Hopefully such details will be worked out soon, before more of America jumps on the healthcare reform bandwagon. After all, during a recession we can't afford to spend even more tax dollars before the troops have left Iraq.

In the meantime, we can't afford to lose the jobs that the insurance companies provide. Healthcare reform will lesson job opportunities while it piles on more responsibilities to the medical workers, right now, when America needs all the opportunity it can get.

Summer Deaths Show Our Duality



EDUARDO HERRERA | VALLEY STAR

The deaths of several public figures this summer showed how easily the American public changes its gears.

JAMIE NORRIED
COPY EDITOR

It is funny how the media circles a celebrity's garbage can for years searching for the next juicy bit of scandal to feed the two-faced public. Media outlets like TMZ stay at the ready to air any emotional trauma, financial troubles, and the ever-tasty violations of the law. We, the people, eat up the news of the latest domestic dispute, criminal trial, and drunken debacle with a joker face on - until someone dies.

With the summer deaths of several public figures, the people traded their joker faces for tragedy masks.

The death of Ted Kennedy, a man of liberal principles, who worked to pass health care bills and support the common man is considered "a loss for mankind," according to Bill Frist, former Republican majority leader of the U.S. Senate. "The greatest United States Senator of our time," said President Obama. Perhaps they forgot about Mary Jo Kopechne who was trapped inside Kennedy's sinking Oldsmobile for hours after he drove it off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island. Maybe her death was a loss for mankind too.

"Although this is an extremely difficult time for her family and friends, we take comfort in the beautiful times that we shared with Farrah over the years and the knowledge that her life brought joy to so many people around the world," said her husband, Ryan O'Neal in a written statement. The people seem to have forgotten how Miss Fawcett looked in her sensational red bathing suit that brought joy to millions in the 70's.

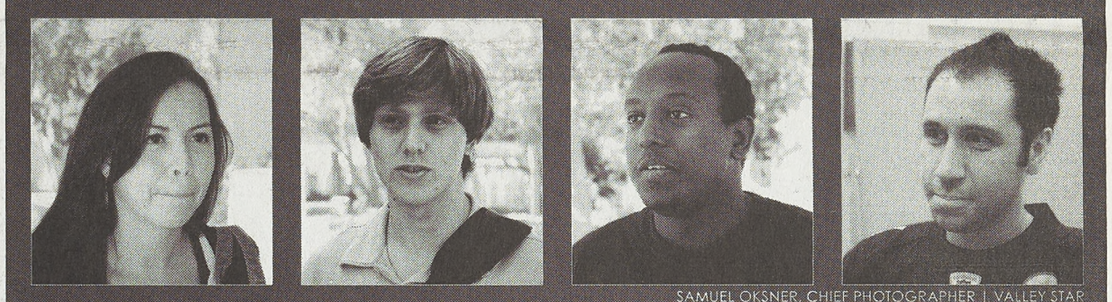
Unfortunately, Miss Fawcett was overshadowed by the death of the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. Apparently, there was not much to say about the fox and her three-year battle with cancer and her charity work with the American Cancer Society. It was more interesting to see who would pay for the funeral of a pop star who was overmedicated.

It's sickening how quick people switch faces when a celebrity dies.

"It was too soon for him to go," and "He touched me so deeply," the people cried as they stood at the gates of Neverland while they forgot how they cried reading headlines about "Wacko Jacko" touching little boys. They forgot about the trials and they forgot about his chameleon act of mid 80's. People should stop crying and just say what's really on their minds: "It's too bad his comeback tour got canceled."

People should just be honest about a person - dead or alive. Stop fabricating, and get off CNN. Nobody wants to eat your sham soup.

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HEALTHCARE REFORM?



SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

I really don't know anything about healthcare reform.
- CYNTHIA CARREON, NURSING

I'm for it. I just hope they can find a solution.
- JOHN HENRY EVANS, ENGLISH

If they can find a way to pay for it, I'm all for it.
- ANTENEH SAHLE, GENERAL STUDIES

The system needs reform but this bill isn't necessarily it.
- IAN COYNE, FILM FINANCE

Valley Still Offers Value to its Students

Even though fees went up, many at Valley College do not grasp the value they get from California's system.

ROBERT R. KING
OPINION EDITOR

When California announced in July it would raise fees to its community colleges by $6 a unit it was not surprising that most people reacted negatively. While Valley College students adjust to and complain about the new fee rate of $26 per unit, many don't realize how lucky they are to pay that little.

For those who are complaining about the $6 fee hike, they should look around campus and be thankful they're California residents.

Non-resident students attending Valley pay $188 per unit and international students pay $198 per unit and must enroll in a minimum of 12 units per semester.

Additionally, every Valley student should be happy they don't go to school in other states. The simple fact remains that while the fees did go up, California's students benefit from one of the cheapest education systems in the United States.

For example, in-state students at the Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York City pay from $135 to $280 per unit, depending on several qualifying factors.

Also, many of the upset students don't have the right to complain because very few actually did something to avoid the fee hikes. Besides one rally on the steps of the state capitol and some lobbying efforts by a choice few students and administrators, California's community college beneficiaries did very little to voice their concerns about potential fee hikes.

"Honestly at a time like this you would think fees would go down," said Valley radiology technology major Rolando Corzo. "I'm not politically active at all but it's always good to know what's going on."

Considering the budget problems facing the state, it is easy to see how the legislature would be justified by raising fees again.

It is up to California's passive students to raise their concerns or support for such a measure. After all, the fees affect students more than anyone else. They must say how high is too high or if it's already at that point.

Until that happens, Sacramento lawmakers will continue to mechanically change the scope of colleges' funding base.

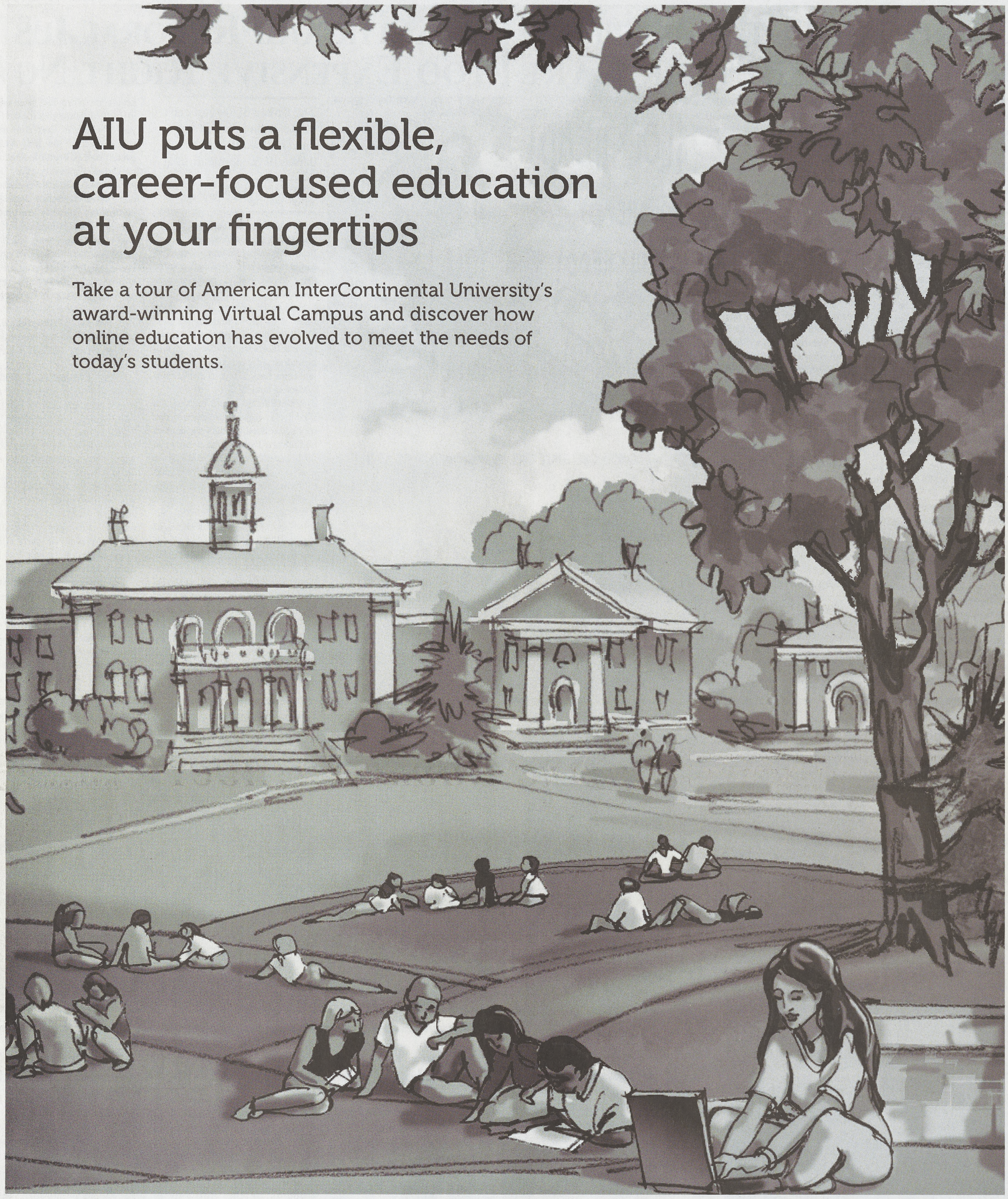
If the laissez faire approach of the students continues they should stop their belly-aching and look into financial aid.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Send letters to the editor to lavalleystar@yahoo.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and can be edited for content. full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letter to be printed. send by thursday for the following week's issue

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Winona Rydas Steal Their Spot on Campus

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

Students find flyers all over campus touting the 'WINONA RYDAS.' A movie still of actress Winona Ryder adorns the page but it is unclear as to what the club is about until reading underneath the name: this is a bicycle club. When the 'rydas' meet, seasoned cyclists introduce uninitiated enthusiasts into the world of cycling.

The club started among friends who wanted to bring a biking team to Valley College. Valley clubs need a faculty sponsor and the charter members elicited the support of Sociology Professor Pepper Glass.

"We were lucky enough to get the support of Pepper Glass who helped us put together this club, it wouldn't have been possible without him," said member Earl Thielen.

During the meetings members socialize, exchange technical information and share tips to obtain the best



ANA ROSA | VALLEY STAR

bicycle parts at bargain prices. The club also watches bicycle-related films together. The latest example is "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure." You can also catch them on club days as they promote their club and give out free vegan cookies and soda.

Club co-founder Anthony Paredes, stated that the inspiration for the club's name came from the obvious.

"I'm just a big fan of her movies, and we agreed on that name," Paredes said about the use of Winona Ryder's image.

The group sets up bike riding days including "Griffith Fridays" or "Dockweiler Beach Rides," where members meet outside of school and merge with other riders.

The club stages rides around Los Angeles and participates in events including "Bike Day L.A," a non-profit organization that promotes cycling and bike maintenance, according to their official web site. Members ride road, fixed gear and mountain bikes and are involved with "The Food Not Bomb" movement, which is a small volunteer group that is dedicated to helping the poor and homeless.

"We don't discriminate against anyone who enters our club, anyone is welcome to join even if they don't ride or own a bike," said Paredes.

The also club promotes bicycling as a hobby and as an alternate mode of transportation. The 'rydas' meet in Behavioral Sciences 103 on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

LAVC EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17
ASU campus clean up.
The ASU is looking for volunteers to help clean up around the campus. 12 - 3 p.m. free sNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE. Contact asu office in monarch Hall for more info.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18
High Holiday Services at CSUN Hillel "Candlelighting and Evening Rosh HaShanah Service" @ 6:30 pm (CSUN Hillel, 17729 Plummer St., Northridge, CA 91325); Cost: $125 for Community (for all services), Students/18 & under Free – Contact: (818) 887-5901

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19
High Holiday Services at CSUN Hillel "Morning Rosh HaShanah Service" @ 10 am (CSUN Hillel, 17729 Plummer St., Northridge, CA 91325); Cost: $125 for Community (for all services), Students/18 & under Free – Contact: (818) 887-5901

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20
"The Kepler Mission: Searching for Earthlike Planets" Astronomy Lecture sponsored by Earth Science & Anthropology Dept @ 7:45- 9 pm (LAVC Planetarium); Free – Contact: David Falk (818) 947-2335

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25
Deadline to drop Fall Semester 2009 classes without receiving a "W" (in-person, by telephone and Internet)

Paving The Path to Successes

Project GRAD program offered to local students in order to tutor pupils at high schools.

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Valley College and the non-profit organization, Project GRAD L.A. (Graduation Really Achieves Dreams), collaborate to offer tutoring and mentor services to northeast San Fernando Valley students for their success in higher education.

Full time students who serve as tutors provide academic guidance to four schools in the Valley, which include Maclay Middle School, Pacoima Middle School, and San Fernando Middle and High Schools. The mentors go through a process of orientation and training to adequately advice, motivate and supervise students of grades K-12 towards academic success. Mentors assist student in areas of literacy, math and reading.

Nona Matatova, CTE Specialist/Project GRAD Coordinator, supervises the process of recruitment of the tutors/mentors and also serves as facilitator between Project GRAD and the college.

"The mission of the mentoring program at LAVC is to prepare and lead children at a young age into a college bound path," said Matatova.

According to Project GRAD Los Angeles College Scholars Enrollment in Higher Education for Fall 2008, 10 percent of program participants have gone on to private Colleges/Universities, 22 percent attend Universities of California, 36 percent are now in California State Universities, 28 percent are in Community Colleges, and 4 percent have gone to out of state Colleges.

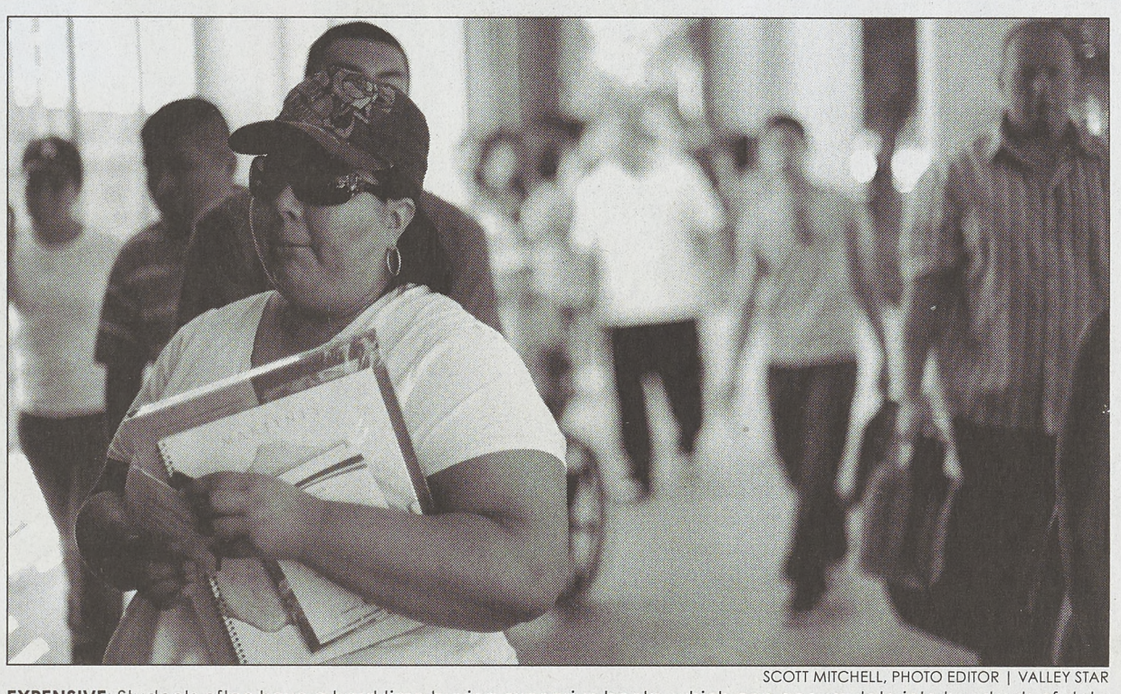
Ishmael Morales is an electronic technology major at Valley College and is transferring to California State University Northridge. Morales was a Project GRAD scholar from 2001-2002 and has been an English mentor for three years.

Morales's objective as a mentor is to build relationships with the students to obtain trust to help and guide the students as well as tutor and help them with their homework. Morales emphasizes the importance of education to his students.

"You have to put the extra effort, time and dedication. Dedicate to educate." Morales said.

Morales feels strongly about the program as a former scholar and current mentor. He said a robotics competition during a summer mentoring at the program was particularly important to him.

"It made me realize that what I was doing is important," Morales said. "It showed him that he was not just inspiring but also helping them to reach their potential."



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

EXPENSIVE: Students often have a hard time buying expensive books, which can accumulate into hundreds of dollars each semester.

BUYING BOOKS WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK

NATALIE KESHISHIAN
STAFF WRITER

Purchasing textbooks is a huge but unavoidable financial burden in the pursuit of a higher education. According to a report released by California state auditor Elaine Howle, the cost of textbooks was nearly 60 percent of a full-time student's total education cost in the 2007-2008 academic school years. The report also states that increases in textbook prices have significantly surpassed what the median household income is able to afford.

Collegeswapshop.com allows you to search by title, author or ISBN number. Within seconds shoppers receive a list of sellers and pricing for the required book(s).

Campusbookrental.com or Chegg.com rents books for periods of fifty-five, eighty-five or one hundred and thirty days. According to prnewswire.com, the student population saved $16 million in 2008 by renting books from Chegg.com. The rental rates on books are often cheaper than used books, as student Raffi Berghoudian realized when a used book for a marketing class was still a whopping $130.00.

"I rented the book for $45 the whole semester. Even though I don't get to keep the book, it's much easier to rent it right now and send it back when I'm done," Berghoudian said.

EBooks allows customers the more economical and environmentally friendly option of downloading. Students can store the text within minutes onto a computer.

The 'free' option is the books professors place on reserve in the school library each semester. Students can refer to the book for two hours at the library, but cannot check it out. Photocopying for 10-cents per page is also an option.

To recover some of that book money, don't rely solely on reselling to the bookstore. According to the audit, a used book at the school bookstore is typically marked 75 percent of the retail value.

"It's frustrating going to the school bookstore, having to check my bags at the door and then wait in a long line to purchase the books I need, then at the end of the semester I'm given less than half of what I paid for the book or no money at all because a new edition is being used for the following semester" said Hovan Hovanessian who attends Valley College.

You can also use the school to post us signs and sell books between each other, rather than using the bookstore or 'middleman.' By paying a small commission, sellers can list textbooks for sale on Amazon or eBay. Craigslist.com allows individuals to post items for sale free of charge.

Purchasing textbooks online or shopping around for other alternatives is a smart decision for students to make College is by no means cheap; however following the tips mentioned above can make paying for it a little easier.

UPCOMING RELEASES

FILM

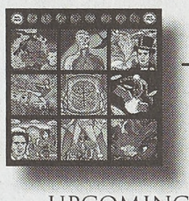


JENNIFER'S BODY

MEGAN FOX
ADAM BRODY
AMANDA SEYFRIED

ALSO PLAYING:
THE INFORMANT; MATT DAMON
LOVE HAPPENS; JENNIFER ANISTON
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS; BILL HADER, ANNA FARRIS,

MUSIC



PEARL JAM

BACKSPACER
SEPT. 20

UPCOMING RELEASES:
MADONNA; ICONOGRAPHY
DIDDY; LAST TRAIN TO PARIS
THREE DAYS GRACE, LIFE STARTS NOW

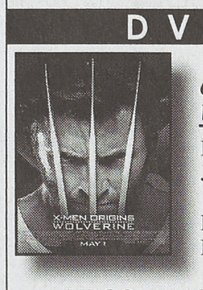
CONCERTS



BLINK- 182
VERIZON WIRELESS AMPITHEATRE
SEPT. 17 & 18
FEATURING:
WEEZER
FALL OUT BOY
ALL AMERICAN REJECTS

ALSO PLAYING:
PLACEBO, 9/20 CLUB NOKIA
BEASTIE BOYS,9/24 HOLLYWOOD BOWL
PEARL JAM,9/30 GIBSON AMPITHEATRE

DVD



X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE

HUGH JACKMAN

RYAN REYNOLDS

UPCOMING RELEASES:

NEXT DAY AIR
CALL OF THE WILD
EASY VIRTUE
FULL BATTLE RATTLE
GRACE
TREELESS MOUNTAIN

"9" Unfortunately Falls Short of the Big Ten

Shane Acker's Creative art house animated film falls short in conveying its message.

JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

It's ironic and certainly tragic that amid the beautiful CGI and meditations on the perils of technology, that the main thing missing from Shane Acker's feature film debut "9," is soul.

"9" tells the story of nine sentient "stitchpunks" (rag dolls) who are trying to discover where the fit in a post-apocalyptic world after the fall of man. They labor with the intent of preserving what is left of humanity. With the emergence of "9" (Elijah Wood) however, the situation deteriorates as he accidentally awakens The B.R.A.I.N., the source of mankind's decimation.

The message is more symbolic than dialogue driven. The casting fits the characters. The same is true of producers Tim Burton and Timur Bekmambetov's contributions. It's easy to see the macabre, gothic, and hauntingly beautiful touches Burton adds to the film such as The B.R.A.I.N's evil creations or the ruins and rubble that serve as the landscape of the story. Bekmambetov stylizes the action to engage and submerge the viewer in the imagery.

Oddly, the casting and creative executive combination that one would think is so perfect, also keeps the film from hitting its stride. "9" seems to be stuck somewhere between an offbeat summer blockbuster and an animated art film.

Acker includes too much symbolism and too many messages in a film that seems excessively abbreviated at 80 minutes. There are great points that the director expresses like the conflict between religion, secularism, technology, and humanity. He also examines the corruption and exploitation of science and our understanding of the meaning of life. These are all worthy meditations fit for the art film milieu, but it stops there and fails to deliver consideration or conclusion.

Sadly there is no conclusion, explicit or implicit in "9". This makes the ending seem contrived, underwhelming, and contradictory. The audience leaves the film feeling it wasted its time and money,

While "9" does fall short of it's lofty ambitions, Acker deserves some credit for holding himself to such high standards. He attempted a contemplative, aesthetically pleasing movie, but deliver mixed results. "9" will still make viewers think and many contemporary films avoid this exercise or lack this dynamic altogether.

SHOWDOWN BETWEEN ROYALTY RESULTS IN DRAW

Last Friday's matchup between the Monarach's and San Diego City College Knights results in a 2-2 tie.

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

It was a gloomy day at Valley College on the Monarch's home field last Friday when the women's soccer match fell short from both team's expectations ending in a 2-2 tie to the San Diego City College Knights.

Both Valley head coach Shane Watkins and San Diego City head coach Andi Milburn, agreed this wasn't the teams best game.

"There was a draw, we were fatigued and there was some breakdowns mentally that lead them back into the game," Watkins said.

Thirty minutes into the game, Valley's center midfielder, Mayra Luis-Juan scored the first goal from a free kick that dribbled through pressure from all sides.

"I just got the ball and shot," Luis-Juan said.

Fifteen minutes later, left fullback Rosie Garcia sealed the first half of the game with a second goal, giving the Monarchs a 2-0 lead going into halftime.

A yellow card infraction was called immediately afterward on attacking midfielder, Sarai Alvarado from San Diego City, for pushing Valley player Garcia after the play.

While Valley had the upper hand in the fist half, the Knights took control of the second half when Alvarado, scored two consecutive goals that made the game tied at two.

"Second time we came in and wanted more, that's why we scored [the] two goals." Alvarado said.

Coach Milburn was less enthusiastic, " We clearly didn't play our game today, not our best performance."

For two coaches on opposing sides, they couldn't agree more. "For a portion of the game, the first 60 minutes I felt we were the better team, clearly we let it go... towards the end we got tired," stated Watkins.

Valley has had a rocky start going early this season with a record of 1-3-1 coming into their Friday game against Rio Hondo.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR



TOP PHOTO: Valley freshmen Adriana Blanco collides with Knight freshmen Jacqueline Mercado in Friday's game versus San Diego City College.

PHOTO ON LEFT: Monarch freshmen Adriana Blanco keeps control of the ball against a San Diego City College defender in Valley's third game of the season.

OPINION

The Advantages of Being an Athlete

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Athletes for Valley College are often given a pass on more than just the fields they play on, an advantage over your average student.

The advantages range from financial aid paperwork being processed faster, access and first enrollment to certain "sports friendly" professors' classes who will help players pass classes, and shorter waits in the lunch room. These, among other benefits, are not exclusive to men in sports, but sports in general. According to several reports done by the NCAA and an article by Sports Illustrated, favoritism seems to be consistent throughout colleges nationwide.

"As a former football coach I know personally of situations where players were given priority enrollment advantages where they had access to teachers who were favorable to athletes as well as favorable class times," stated Professor Buchanan, a coach and gym instructor, who currently teaches Health 11.

Students often have to wait and sit in through up to four classes just to obtain an add slip or two hours trying to get financial aid. For us in the majority it's ridiculous to watch athletes cruise through the process at an unfair advantage. This needs to be resolved.

When questioned about whether or not he believes that anything is currently being done by Valley to abstain from player favoritism Professor Buchanan stated, "The players and coaches believe they can contribute to winning is more important than the individual welfare of the student-athlete themselves, with exception of the head baseball coach. So the answer to this question is a resounding: NO"

The advantages that sports players are given can be audible anywhere on campus as their whoops and hollers can be heard throughout an otherwise silent library, study room, hallway or computer lab at any given time, all of which is seemingly ignored by faculty. Is this within reason? Some players believe so.

"We have a lot more going on than people know about, we have a lot of pressure and work really hard for this school, sometimes we don't mean to be so loud or jump to the front of the line, we just have so much to worry about and spend so much time on campus and in practice that we need to just need the extra advantage," stated Glen Whirley, defensive end for the Monarch football team.

Pressures, long hours and the need for the Monarchs to win aside, it would be nice if I too could yell out my frustrations and take classes that are writer friendly, which I'm guaranteed to pass. However the average student that I am forces me and thousands like me to be polite in library and hold my hollers to a minimum. Is this unfair? I think so.

OPINION

Silver Lining to Media Thunderstorm

JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

For all the controversy and discussion surrounding Oregon University running back LeGarrette Blount's haymaker heard 'round the sports world, the media frenzy has yet to focus on the one bright spot in this sad sucker punch of a story: Chip Kelly.

The first-year Oregon duck head coach made the right decision in the level of discipline Blount received, handling the media blitz with flying colors.

For those questioning Kelly, the punishment fits the crime. As impulsive as society is today, especially in sports where fans are exponentially demanding causing athletes' tolerance for hecklers (be it fan or another player) to be at an all time low. Blount has to know his actions are weighted more because he's a player especially after incidents like Ron Artest, Warren Sapp, and the the South Carolina/ Clemson brawl.

This is not the first time Blount has blown up. He was suspended indefinitely at the end of the 2008 season for undisclosed reasons. The premise for hitting Byron Hout is faulty at best. If Hout was trash-talking to Blount about Boise St. beating Oregon ... again, the Ducks need to eat crow considering they instigated the latest round of smack talk prior to the game. Rumors have also swirled that the statements made to Blount were racially charged or about his family. As offensive as that would be, Blount still has to find a way to restrain himself. Imagine the talk that goes on between heated rivalries like Alabama/Auburn, Florida/ Florida St., Michigan/ Ohio St. If Blount can't handle some jabber from a lineman in a non- conference game, how could he handle the NFL? What would his reaction be in Philadelphia, New York, or the "Black Hole" in Oakland? There is simply no room for extracurricular altercations in this sport and Coach Kelly fulfilled his responsibility maintaining the safety of his team.

The silver lining to this story is the depth Kelly has shown as a leader, not just a football coach. It takes a great deal of strength to look a player in the eye, end his collegiate career and still find ways to improve him as a person. This is something that the Bowden, Meyer, and Carroll's of the college world should embrace more.

After suspending Blount, Kelly has since allowed the running back to practice with team and was kind enough to keep him on scholarship to finish his education at Oregon. The coach has gone one step further in arranging mentoring sessions, one of which will feature former Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Jon Gruden to provide insight on the rigors of the NFL.

Ultimately there will be football after Oregon for Legarrette Blount. If Lawrence Phillips, Mike Williams and Maurice Clarrett can find a franchise, so can Blount. Let's just hope that he can absorb as much as possible from someone who is more than a football coach: a teacher.

RENEGADE'S ROLL THROUGH MONARCH'S

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Walking off the field Saturday night the Valley College Monarchs managed another personal best in their second came of the season, overcoming their 22- point loss to Ventura with a crushing 48-point loss against the Bakersfield Renegades.

"Last Saturday's loss was a very physical game and we are not a very deep team," said Valley head coach Jim Fenwick. "They were a very good team...not the type of team we match up with."

As injuries, lack of lineman, and total team depth continue to stalk the young Monarch team; things can only get worse as the College of the Canyons Cougars come to Valley this Saturday in the Monarch's first home game of the season.

According to Coach Fenwick, the team's lack of depth is forcing players to be in positions they are not fully comfortable or familiar with, which will most likely play a factor in the game outcome this coming weekend.

"They're very good...they're better than we are (and) they have a lot of depth." Fenwick said of the Cougars. "We have to get as prepared as we can to play with that kind of size and speed."

The Cougars come to Valley 1-1 with a 27-17 win against Antelope Valley and a 17-14 loss to Santa Barbara College. Last year the Cougars hosted the Monarchs in their homecoming game beating Valley 66-7.

"We think we're making some progress... we're learning every week," Fenwick said.

The two teams square off at 7pm this Saturday night at Valley College. Unfortunately the always-important match-up and game for the Valley College Monarchs may turn out to be yet another learning experience.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

COACHING IT UP - Head coach Jim Fenwick instructing sophmore quarterback Bret Visciglia.

SCHEDULES

Men's Water Polo: Away
Sept. 18th-19th TBA
Mt. Sac Tournament

Football: Home
Sept. 19th 7pm
Vs. College of the Canyons

Women's Soccer: Away
Sept. 18th 4pm
Vs. Rio Hondo

Cross Country: Away
Sept. 19th 10am
Orange Coast Invitational at Costa Mesa

Women's Water Polo: Away
Sept. 19th TBA
El Camino Mini Tournament

Can You Pick NFL Week 2 Winners? ⟩⟩ Visit our online site for a chance at prizes if you can beat our staff's NFL experts. lavalleystar.com